

TO: CALFED Agency Representatives

SUBJECT: Review process for Response to Comments Document and Final EIS/EIR and Appendices.

Attached is the Agency Review Strategy that CALFED plans to use for the agencies to review the Response to Comments Document, Final EIS/EIR and Appendices. As requested, a double review process has been developed. This allows the agencies to review the documents, provide changes and then be able to review the changes that are made in the documents prior to them being finalized. The second review provides a final opportunity to raise issues that need to be resolved at the policy level. Please note that the schedule includes a process for elevating such issues to the small policy group meetings. The highlighted items are dates when either the agencies will receive information from CALFED or when responses are due from the agencies. The review process will be handle in two phases, one that cover the Response to Comments Document and the other that covers the changes in the Impact Analysis document and the Appendices. The intent of this process is to provide more time for review by the agencies and to distribute the review process so that all items are not being reviewed in one time period.

A draft of the Response to Comments Document will be delivered for the 1st review, but only copies of any changes in responses will be provided for the second review.

For the Impact Analysis and Appendices, a summary of changes for each will be provided, along with copies of any pages that have been changed. Items removed will be shown with a strikeout and new items will be highlighted.

It is hoped that this process will both provide more time for the agencies to review and provide comments as well as limiting the amount of time and funds used for the copying of documents for the review process. Please note that a three day meeting block is scheduled for January 19th through the 21st, to go over agency comments from the first review of the Impact Analysis and Appendices.

Also attached is a short flow chart that simply shows the dates that items will be delivered to the agencies and when the responses are due back to CALFED. Prior to starting the agency review process for the Draft EIS/EIR, we held a meeting with the agency representatives to explain how the process would work and answer any questions regarding the schedule and process. If you feel that a similar meeting would be helpful, please indicate dates that you would be available during the weeks of September 13-17 or 20-24. Based on the response, we will determine the need for a meeting and notify you of the day that best meets most individuals needs if a meeting is scheduled.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call me at 916-652-7286.

Rod Johnson
Chief NEPA/CEQA Unit, CALFED